

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is the representative body of the students at Hamden High School, which exists as a medium of communication between the students, the teachers, and the administration. The Student Council works to improve the educational experience for all students. The Student Council sponsors many activities during the school year. All committees of the Council are open to students who want to become working members. The Council welcomes student volunteers. Student leaders must meet the specific qualifications. They should be trustworthy, dedicated to the school, demonstrate leadership ability and a good attitude. The student seeking a student government position must maintain a grade average of "C," without failing any subjects. Two teachers and his or her house administrator must recommend every student who wishes to run for office.

Information regarding appropriate dates and timelines for running for office will be available by March in all administrative offices.

Advisor:	Mr. Christopher Thomas
Membership:	Election by members of each class, approval of the Executive Board of the Council as a volunteer.
Purpose:	The Student Council has several important goals. It aids in formulating and implementing school policy in a representative, democratic organization, and attempts to foster school spirit and to maintain good relations between the school and the community.
Special Events:	Fall and Spring Blood Drives, Holiday Food Drive, and Holiday Toy Collections.

CLASS OFFICERS

Every class in Hamden High School elects five class officers who are responsible for all of the business, fundraisers and social activities of the class. The officers are elected in May by the sophomore, junior, and senior classes and in the fall by the freshman class.

Each student who wishes to run for office must obtain recommendations from two teachers and his or her House Principal. Every student seeking class office must have and maintain an average of "C" without failing any courses.

The schedule for class elections with appropriate dates and timelines will be available in March in all administrative offices. Students must adhere to posted deadlines to be eligible to run for class office.

The following is a list of faculty Class Advisors at Hamden High School:

CLASS OF 2020

Advisors:	Mrs. Stephanie Butler and Mrs. Karen Feldman Meeting
Time:	As needed
Season:	All year
Membership:	Members of the Senior Class

CLASS OF 2021

Advisors:	Mrs. Janine Gaffney and Mrs. Katherine Rosario
Meeting Time:	As needed
Season:	All year
Membership:	Members of the Junior Class

CLASS OF 2022

Advisors:	Ms. Stefanie McClure and Ms. Danielle Gentile
Meeting Time:	As needed

Season:	All year
Membership:	Members of the Sophomore Class
CLASS OF 2023	
Advisors:	Mr. Chris Thomas and Mrs. Moira Birmingham
Meeting Time:	As needed
Season:	All year
Membership:	Members of the Freshman Class

STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

AFTER-PROM COMMITTEE

Advisor:	Ms. Donna Elkin
Membership:	Senior class students and members of Student Council, and/or other interested students.
Purpose:	The After Prom Committee of the PTSO organizes an all night drug-free and alcohol-free party as a fun and safe alternative to irresponsible "partying." All seniors and their prom dates are invited to enjoy free entertainment, food, games and prizes.
Special Events:	Fashion Show, Decorations, and other fundraisers.

ANIME CLUB

Advisor:	Mr. Dan DeNicolo
Membership:	Open to all students
Purpose:	To view, appreciate, discuss and learn more about Anime and Anime Art. The Anime Club also organizes trips to local Anime conventions.

ASIAN WORLD PRIDE CLUB

Advisor:	Ms. Yun Liu
Membership:	Open to all students
Purpose:	To heighten student awareness of the Asian culture, customs and history.

BLACK AND HISPANIC STUDENT UNION

Advisor:	Mr. Lamond Battle
Membership:	A desire to contribute to a positive image of African Americans and Hispanics.
Purpose:	The Black and Hispanic Student Union (B.H.S.U.) is open to all students. The B.H.S.U. goals include fostering academic, cultural and social development by providing students with opportunities to visit colleges and workshops, to participate in community and school related anti-drug and anti-bias cultural events to celebrate.
Special Events:	The B.H.S.U. participates in HBCU College Tours, Neighborhood Clean ups, and community protests with a passion for equity.

BRIDGE BUILDERS CLUB

Advisor:	Ms. Judith Campbell
Membership:	Open to all students

Purpose: Students meet one evening each month with seniors at Whitney Center to discuss current events or selected topics. This organization serves to open communication between youth and seniors. Students must provide their own transportation to and from Whitney Center.

CHAMBER CHOIR

Advisor: Dr. Stephen Baranski
Membership: All students are invited to audition
Purpose: Performance at all Music Department Concerts Special Events: Concerts, fine arts events and various civic activities, etc.

DANCE TEAM

Advisors: Coach Kathy Cavanaugh, Coach Kelley May and Coach Kathy Swillinger
Membership: Dance experience is highly recommended. Teacher recommendations and academic achievement are necessary to belong.
Purpose: To perform dance routines at school and community events. Performers will participate in local and regional dance competitions. Students learn dance skills as well as leadership abilities and social skills.
Special Events: Local and regional competitions and summer dance camp.

DEBATE TEAM

Advisor: Mr. Mark Gabriel
Membership: Members must be available for a meeting after school. Attendance is mandatory.
Purpose: The debate team provides members with the opportunity to research, organize and formally debate controversial topics of interest. The team also critically examines the year's national debate topic and encourages qualified members to compete with teams from other schools. Academic Tournament Debate Standards are used.
Special Events: Participation in various persuasive speaking and debate competitions.

DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)/HHS School Store

Advisor: Mr. Bryan Anderson
Membership: Open to all students enrolled in Marketing I, II, and III courses. DECA provides students with activities designed to develop leadership skills in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. DECA is an integral part of classroom instruction in marketing.
Special Events: School Store operation and management; state and international competitions; leadership conferences and workshops, fundraising, charity and civic events; and, social activities.
www.hamdenschoolstore.org/.

ECO CLUB

Advisor: Ms. Danielle Gentile; Ms. Melissa Cowan
Membership: Open to all students
Purpose: To spread awareness and to educate students on protecting the environment.
Special Events: Annual Earth Day fair, town clean-ups, reusable straw fundraisers, club viewings of environmentally-conscious documentaries.

FASHION CLUB WITH FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising)

Advisors:	Dr. Elisa James
Membership:	TBD
Purpose:	To provide an outlet for like minded students who have an interest in fashion and who want to pursue careers in the industry.
Special Events:	Bake sales, donation shoe for Soles 4 Souls, guest speakers, possible field trip to NYC.

GLOBAL YOUTH ACTIVISTS

Advisor:	Ms. Danielle Sangster
Purpose:	Membership: Open to all students The Global Youth Activists club acts as a means for students who want to help out in their community and the world at large to reach out and support those around them! With a focus on refugees, our club raises money as well as awareness for topics often overlooked in hopes of creating a better world and bringing us all together. When you live in a small city, it's easy to forget about the world around you. This club is an effort to bridge the gap and help us recognize one another as human beings. We're all in this together; Global Youth Activists gives a voice to those quieted around world!
Special Events:	Community Service—Monetary Donation Drives; Clothing Drives, etc. to help refugees.

HAMDEN THEATER – MAINSTAGE ENSEMBLE

Advisor:	Ms. Marydell Merrill
Membership:	An interest in performing or technical theatre. Auditions are held for each production. All interested Hamden High School students are welcome to audition. Most rehearsals are held after school until 5:00. Any students who are interested in participating in technical theatre and crew are welcome. Most of our production work takes place on Saturdays from 9:30-4:00. The Mainstage Ensemble is Hamden High School's resident theatre company, offering students the opportunity to become active in a rigorous theatre program led by theatre professionals.
Special Events:	Annual field trips to professional theatre productions. Theatre participants can earn hours towards membership in the International Thespian Society, the honor society for students of theatre.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS CLUB

Advisors:	Mrs. Ann Marie Aguiar
Purpose:	Membership: Open to all students To expose students to a multitude of health professions by having guest speakers. Quinnipiac University medical students also come to speak throughout the year and can serve as career exploration mentors.
Special Events:	Students have the opportunity to participate in a capstone project which is presented at QU in the spring.

HUMAN RELATIONS CLUB

Advisor:	Mrs. Connie LaFemina
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Membership:	All students
Purpose:	The Human Relations Club is a student-run organization that seeks to develop and implement activities to reduce prejudice and discrimination and increase cultural, religious, racial and ethnic sensitivity and awareness. Participation in activities, including social service and prejudice reduction is required.
Special Events:	Make a Difference Week, Elementary and Middle School Prejudice Reduction Programs, and additional Social Service Activities.

IMPROV CLUB

Advisor:	TBD
Membership:	All students
Purpose:	The IMPROV Club is designed for students interested in improvisational acting. Improv is about performing solely based upon what comes to your head. Various improvisational games are played during meetings. We perform without scripts or prior preparation. Students may choose to only observe or may join-in on any of the activities.

INTERACT CLUB

Advisor:	Mrs. Laura Rodriguez
Membership:	Membership: All students (20 members)
Purpose:	To raise awareness about the volunteer opportunities in the community. To enrich the character of the students in HHS through leadership opportunities.
Special Events:	Walk-a-Thon for Alzheimer's and make Pizza (October); make Pizzelle (December); create masks for Carnevale for a festa to celebrate the holiday; play bocce and scopa; watch Italia movies; field trips related to Italy/Italian; and a fundraiser.

ITALIAN CLUB

Advisors:	Mrs. Gina Lidzbarski and Mrs. Paula Rochniak
Membership:	Students interested in Italian culture. Students should attend every meeting.
Purpose:	The Italian Club has been formed to promote and encourage enthusiasm for the Italian language and culture.
Special Events	Walk-a-Thon for Alzheimer's in September annually, play bocce and scopa, make pizza and pizzelles, and watch Italian themed movies.

JAZZ BAND AND JAZZ COMBO

Advisor:	Mr. Aaron Barkon
Season:	All year
Membership:	Auditions are held in September for students who play trumpet, trombone, saxophone, piano, bass and lead guitars, and drum set. Preference is given to students who are registered for Concert Band or Orchestra as a class.
Purpose:	To perform at all Music Department concerts.

MARCHING BAND – COLOR GUARD

Advisor:	Mrs. Jennifer Nolan
Membership:	Open to all students who can commit to the meeting times
Purpose:	To perform with the Marching Band at football games and parades

MATH TEAM

Advisor:	Ms. Chludzinski
Season:	All year
Membership:	Must make at least two meeting a month Purpose: The Math Team allows students with an interest in math to meet and compete with others on their level. Students work on difficult word problems, which challenge their skills.
Special Events:	Contests (one every month Oct. - April) with other Connecticut schools in the region.

MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Advisor:	Mr. Arnold Aranci
Season:	September to February
Tryouts:	Members are selected through competitive tryouts Purpose: Members play the parts of attorneys and put on trials in New Haven Superior Court against other schools in front of volunteer judges. These student attorneys must think on their feet, make objections, cross exam witnesses from opposing schools, and make opening and closing statements. It is exactly like being a real lawyer in court. It's fantastic legal training, public speaking experience, and confidence building
Special Events:	State Mock Trial Championship competition which takes place in area courthouses.

MUSLIM STUDENT ALLIANCE

Advisor:	Lisa Stamdís
Meeting Time:	TBD
Season:	TBD
Membership:	TBD
Purpose:	TBD
Special Events:	TBD

TRI-M MUSIC NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Advisor:	Aaron Barkon, Katherine Socha and Dr. Stephen Baranski
Membership:	By application
Purpose:	To contribute music service to our community and raise money for great causes.
Special Events:	TBD

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Advisors:	Ms. Christine Frumento and Ms. Catherine Marshall
Membership:	Members are selected in the Junior year based on Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character.
Purpose:	The National Honor Society is primarily a service organization of students whose selection is based on outstanding scholarship, leadership, service and character. The members plan and participate in many activities to help both the school and greater community.
Special Events:	Peer Tutoring Program and Winter Coat Drives

P.A.W.S. (Protection of Animal Welfare and Shelter)

Advisor:	Mrs. Ann Marie Aguiar
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Membership: Open to all students
Purpose: To raise awareness of the need to help animals. Special Events: Members have the opportunity to volunteer at the Hamden Fall Festival and to fundraise throughout the year to help the shelters with items such as food, bedding, cleaning supplies and toys.

P.R.I.D.E. (Promoting Respect Individuality Diversity and Equality)

Advisor: Ms. Lisa Stamidis
Purpose: Any student who believes that all students should be treated equally regardless of race, ethnic background, gender or sexual orientation should join this worthwhile organization. The goal of PRIDE is to enhance a safe and inviting environment for all students.
Special Events: Annual trip to True Colors, a PRIDE assembly, and participate in Day of Silence, and other pride/diversity events.

RED CROSS CLUB

Advisor: Mr. Michael Cebula
Membership: Open to all students
Purpose: To engage students with the community and contribute to the Red Cross's on-going efforts.
Special Events: Community Service; Blood Drives; CPR Certification

REPTILE CLUB

Advisor: Mr. Joseph Rizzo
Membership: Students interested in hands-on experience with reptiles. Each student will have a "focus species." They will become an expert on this species and be able to teach about it.
Purpose: Students will travel to surrounding schools for presentations. Students will care for the animals over vacation.
Special Events:

ROBOTICS TEAM

Advisor: Mr. Dan DeNicolò
Membership: Open to all students
Purpose: To promote STEM interest and abilities within the Hamden school system and the community. The team also emphasizes collaboration, organizational skills, and team building.

SADD (STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS)

Advisors: Mrs. Kathy Morgillo
Membership: Interest and willingness to be committed to not drinking or using drugs and promoting a "no use" message to peers.
Purpose: SADD's mission is to provide students with the best prevention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, and other destructive decisions.
Special Events: Drug Fairs at all Hamden elementary schools, events to raise awareness within the high school, and other activities in the community with Hamden Youth Services and the Consultation Center.

SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

THE DIAL

Advisors:	Ms. Elizabeth Alexander and Ms. Elizabeth Young
Membership:	Anyone interested in writing, design, or publishing
Purpose:	The Dial is Hamden High School's school newspaper. Published since 1936, The Dial is committed to providing students with an open forum where they can express their opinions and ideas.
Special Events:	Monthly issues, April Fools' Day Vile, Mr. Hamden, layout and photography.

THE VENTURE

Advisors:	Erica Tamsin & Tamsin Gosselin
Membership:	Teacher recommendation and a keen sense of commitment and responsibility
Purpose:	The Venture editors and staff are responsible for all aspects of Hamden High School's yearbook and its publication.
Special Events:	Fundraisers and workshops.

SCIENCE CLUB/BOWL

Advisors:	Mr. Michael Kozera
Membership:	All students who are interested in any area of science.
Purpose:	Build models, devices, and hone science skills for fun projects, experiments, field trips and competitions including Science Olympiad and Science Bowl at UConn.

SPANISH CLUB

Advisors:	Mrs. Erica Torruellas
Membership:	All students who are interested in Spanish culture.
Purpose:	To promote interest for Spanish language and culture.

SKI/BOARD CLUB

Advisor:	Dr. Elisa James
Co-Advisor:	Ms. Janine Gaffney
Membership:	Open to all students. First time skiers and boarders are welcome.
Purpose:	To provide the opportunity for students to enjoy the fun of skiing and snowboarding with friends. The Ski/Board Club takes five after school trips to Mt. Southington during the ski season.
Special Events:	One trip to a mountain resort outside of Connecticut.

HHS STEPPERS

Advisor:	TBA
Membership:	Maintain a C average or better; good attitude, positive behavior, enthusiasm, team spirit, willing to work
Tryouts:	September
Purpose:	Entertainment during half time; encourage school spirit. Special
Events:	Invited events within the surrounding towns.

STOCK MARKET CLUB

Advisor:	TBA
Membership:	All are welcome to "Learn How to Earn" by investing.

Purpose: Students develop skills in investment strategies and participate in real-world opportunities through stock market simulated activities and programs.

Special Events: Field trip to New York City Financial District.

Student Ambassadors (Formerly House Leadership)

Advisor: Mr. Scott Trauner

Membership: Students previously identified through House Leadership. Additional students in grades 9-12 with demonstrated leadership potential and nominated by House Principals and/or other staff members in September 2019; students must have been in good academic standing in ALL classes during the 2018-19 school year.

Purpose: To provide student leadership, direction, and voice in our efforts to build a positive and welcoming school environment.

Special Events: During the 2019-20 school year, the group will have a special partnership with The Anti-defamation League, which will involve Peer Leadership Training, the Names Can Really Hurt Us program, and work towards designating HHS as a No Place for Hate school. Other events will include Freshman Orientation, Parent Conferences, 8th grade tours, and others.

TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (TSA)

Advisor: Mr. Dean DelGiudice

Membership: Open to all students

Purpose: TSA Technology Student Association is a national student led organization with focuses on Technology and STEM activities. Students will design a variety of projects such as: CADD, Fashion, Video, Structural Design, and Digital Photography. enhances personal development, leadership, and career opportunities in STEM, whereby members apply and integrate these concepts through extracurricular activities, competitions, and related programs. Meeting dates will be determined in September. Please visit www.tsaweb.org for more information.

Special Events: Fall Leadership Workshop (November), CT-State TSA Conference (March), TSA National Conference (June)

UNIFIED FRIENDS CLUB

Advisor: Mr. Steve DelGrego

Membership: Unified students; DECA students and other volunteer students

Purpose: To promote and enhance the Unified Sports Program Special

Events: Hosting a tournament at Hamden High School

WRITER'S CLUB

Advisor: Mr. Richard Pershan

Membership: All students are welcome who have a desire or interest in writing.

Purpose: To provide a structured environment for students to develop the craft of their writing and an opportunity to express themselves and be heard.

Special Events: Publications in The Dial and HHS Writer's Page; trips to Yale to hear Yale student writers, spoken word opportunities for Halloween, Valentine's Day, and HHS's annual Spoken Word event.

WORLD LANGUAGES HONOR SOCIETY

Advisors:

Mrs. Gina Lidzbarski and Mrs. Paula Rochniak (Italian); Mr. William Auriemme (Spanish); Ms. Yun Liu (Chinese)

Membership:

An "A" average in language class, dedication to continue in the language through senior year, and teacher recommendations.

Purpose:

To recognize students who are promoting world language through their academic excellence and their school/community service.

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Special Events:

Walk-a-Thon for Alzheimer's Association (September), World Language Events/Field Trips, which includes the CT COLT Poetry Contest (April), Seal of Biliteracy (March), CT COLT Awards of Excellence (Spring), Spanish Immersion Program, and the Induction Ceremony (Spring).